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ACTION ARA-20

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NSCE-00 SP-03 VO-03 SCA-01 EB-11 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 H-03 IO-14

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O 251655Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1539

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EINV, DR

SUBJECT: TALKING POINTS FOR USE WITH PRD DELEGATION

REF: A. STATE 208823, B. SD 3890

1. ALTHOUGH PRD DELEGATION HAS INFORMED EMBASSY AND DOMINICAN PUBLIC THAT IT WISHES DISCUSS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THE SUBJECTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND GULF & WESTERN "POLITICAL INTERFERENCE" IN DR, ITS VISIT TO US HAS BEEN SET IN BROAD POLITICAL CONTEXT, AND IT EVIDENTLY SEEKS TO PROJECT IMAGE OF BEING IN COMMUNICATION AND ENJOYING STANDING WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND WITH LIBERAL POLITICAL LEADERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. IT IS THEREFORE POSSIBLE THAT DELEGATION WILL SEEK TO ENLARGE SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS BEYOND THE TWO SPECIFIC SUBJECTS. WE RECOMMEND THAT ON ANY GENERAL POLITICAL SUBJECTS DEPARTMENT ADOPT POSTURE OF INTERESTED LISTENER, SINCE DELEGATION WILL TRY TO EXPLOIT PUBLICLY ANY REMARKS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHICH COULD BE USED TO BOLSTER PRD POPULAR STANDING VIS-A-VIA BALAGUER ADMINISTRATION.

2. WE REGARD PRD DELEGATION VISIT AS OPPORTUNITY FOR DEPT TO SUPPORT PRD INITIATIVE TO "NORMALIZE" ITS RELATIONS WITH EMBASSY AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT INDICATING APPROVAL THIS
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NEW RELATIONSHIP.

3. AS FOR THE TWO AFOREMENTIONED SPECIFIC SUBJECTS, NEITHER HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE IN DR-US RELATIONS SO FAR. WITH RESPECT TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO THE US WE HAVE TAKEN FOLLOWING LINE PUBLICLY HERE IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUERIES:

(1) PROBLEM IS NOT UNIQUE TO DOMINICANS. IT ALSO INVOLVES CITIZENS OF MANY OTHER COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND ELSEWHERE WHO ARE IN US WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION.

(2) PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY A LEGAL ONE, THOUGH IT IS COMPLEX AND WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT HAS HUMANITARIAN FACET AS WELL.

(3) LEGALLY, IT INVOLVES THOSE WHO HAVE VIOLATED US IMMIGRATION LAWS AND REGULATIONS AND ARE THEREFORE SUBJECT TO EXPULSION.

(4) US AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN QUITE LENIENT IN CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW, TAKING ACCOUNT OF MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCE IN PROSECUTING VIOLATORS.

(5) APPROPRIATE US AUTHORITIES ARE STUDYING THIS PROBLEM BEARING IN MIND BOTH THE LEGAL AND HUMAN ASPECTS. ADDITIONALLY, DEPT MAY WISH TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(1) THE LAW GOVERNING THE STATUS OF VISITORS AND IMMIGRANTS TO THE US CAN BE MODIFIED ONLY BY CONGRESS;

(2) LONG-TERM SOLUTION IS, OF COURSE, IMPROVEMENT OF CONDITIONS IN COUNTRIES FROM WHICH THESE IMMIGRANTS COME, IN ORDER TO REDUCE INCENTIVES TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY. THROUGH AID, PEACE CORPS, OAS, AND THE WHOLE FAMILY OF UNITED NATIONS AND MULTI-NATIONAL AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, USG IS MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS AIMED AT IMPROVEMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SUCCESS OF THESE PROGRAMS SHOULD REDUCE PRESSURES FOR EMIGRATION.

(3) PRD SHOULD MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH EMBASSY
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REGARDING INFORMATION AS TO ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY OCCUR IN THIS AREA.

4. WITH RESPECT TO G&W, AMBASSADOR HAS TAKEN PUBLIC LINE SINCE LAST NOVEMBER THAT US POLICY TOWARD POLITICS AND ELECTIONS WAS ONE OF NON-INTERVENTION AND NEUTRALITY TOWARD CANDIDATES AND THAT AMBASSADOR EXPECTED ALL US COMPANIES REPRESENTED IN DR TO ADHERE TO ITS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. WE HAVE NO RPT

NO EVIDENCE THAT G&W OR ANY OTHER US COMPANY HAS ACTED CONTRARY TO THIS POLICY. DURING MEETING WITH PENA GOMEZ ET AL ON AUGUST 30, PENA ALLEGED G&W INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL POLITICS. AMBASSADOR REITERATED US POLICY AND EXPECTATION REGARDING POLITICAL BEHAVIOR OF US COMPANIES AND INVITED PENA TO SUBMIT TO HIM ANY EVIDENCE OF ACTIVITIES TO THE CONTRARY. IN DISCUSSING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST G&W POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, RECOMMENDED THAT DEPT DRAW ON FOREGOING AND MENTION THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR PRD TO PROVIDE DATA SUBSTANTIATING ITS CHARGES DIRECTLY TO USG OFFICERS ON THE SCENE. IN ADDITION, DEPT COULD MAKE POINT THAT USG BELIEVES THAT US COMPANIES OPERATING ABROAD SHOULD BE GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENS AND ABIDE BY THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE HOST COUNTRY. THIS IS A POINT THAT THE USG HAS STRESSED IN THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED MFN WORKING GROUP ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS. THE EMBASSY HAS STRESSED IT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GULF & WESTERN AND IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT G&W IS MAKING A CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORT IN THIS REGARD.

5. FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION MAY ALSO PROVE USEFUL DEPENDING UPON COURSE OF CONVERSATION:

(1) G&W HAS A LARGE PROFILE IN THE PUBLIC CONSCIOUSNESS MAINLY BECAUSE OF ITS SUBSTANTIAL LANDHOLDINGS AND ITS MAJOR SUGAR OPERATION IN THE DR. HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN TAKING CONCRETE ACTIONS TO PROMOTE ITS STANDING AS A GOOD CORPORATE CITIZEN.

(A) IT RECENTLY ANNOUNCED PLANS TO SELL OFF 10,000 ACRES OF LAND ALREADY PLANTED IN SUGAR CANE TOO THE COLONOS WHO WORK THE LAND; IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, 3700 ACRES WERE TRANSFERRED IN SIMILAR FASHION.
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(B) IT DIVESTED ITSELF OF ITS FINANCE COMPANY (COFINASA) WHEN IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT SUCH FINANCING COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY DOMINICAN FIRMS JUST AS WELL.

(C) IT RECENTLY CREATED THE "FUNDACION" FOR PHILANTHROPIC AND CHARITABLE PURPOSES, AND IT HAS CONTRIBUTED, PERHAPS AS MUCH OR MORE THAN ANY OTHER FIRM IN THE DR, TO WORTHY PROJECTS SUCH AS SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL ESTE (AT SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS), NUMEROUS PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IN THE LA ROMANA AREA, AND BRINGING SEVERAL CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS TO THE DR (EG. MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY AND HARKNESS BALLET).

(2) G&W OPERATIONS ARE OF SUBSTANTIAL BENEFIT TO THE DR IN MANY WAYS:

(A) G&W VASTLY IMPROVED THE MANAGEMENT, LABOR RELATIONS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE SUGAR OPERATION IT TOOK OVER IN THE MID-60'S.

(B) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS IT BRINGS TO THE COUNTRY AS AN EFFICIENT SUGAR PRODUCER, G&W EARNS FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR THE DR THROUGH ITS MOVIE FILMS. (PARAMOUNT PICTURES, A SUBSIDIARY OF G&W, FILMED GODFATHER II HERE AND PLANS TO MAKE SEVERAL MORE FILMS IN THE DR.)

(C) G&W IS REINVESTING MUCH OF ITS EARNINGS IN THE DR. EXAMPLES ARE THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO LARGE HOTELS (LA ROMANA AND CASA DE CAMPO), A GOLF COURSE, AND CONDOMINIUMS AT LA ROMANA; CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGE NEW HOTEL IN SANTO DOMINGO AND LEASING AND REFURBISHING OF THE OLD HISPANIOLA; CREATION OF AN INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE AT LA ROMA, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE DR AND PRECURSOR OF OTHER FREE ZONES, WHICH HAVE INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DR.

(D) G&W BRINGS TO THE SUGAR OPERATION ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND TECHNIQUES WHICH STIMULATE THE EFFICIENCY OF OTHER SUGAR OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.
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